

## Counseling Agreement

Have you been having trouble? Don't know what to do or where to turn? The pastor of Central Baptist Church of Hobart, IN wants you to know that he is available to take a limited number of counseling cases from outside the congregation in addition to those he is conducting at any given time. You may apply for help by phoning the church at 219.759.5200 ext. 11 or contact Susan Dubach at 219.763.7690.

There are, however, several conditions upon which outside counseling cases will be initiated. They are as follows:

1. Counseling of members of Central Baptist Church always takes precedence over all outside counseling.
2. Counseling will be done by the pastor or by one of the leaders of the church; such decisions will be made by the pastor.
3. Congregational leaders may be asked to participate with one of the pastors as part of the counseling team.
4. All counseling will be conducted in accordance with the pastor's understanding of the Scriptures. Your counseling will be biblical, pastoral counseling in which the Scriptures are in all cases the final authority. If you are not sure you will be interested in biblically-based counseling, you will be given the option of attending one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is like. If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority in counseling, sessions will be terminated.
5. If you are a member of another church, it will be necessary for your pastor to accompany you to counseling sessions or to attend a Sunday service at Central during counseling. This is important since we want to recognize and respect the authority and the discipline of other congregations. And, in addition, this makes transfer back to the pastoral care of your church a lot easier to effect.
6. At any time during the counseling, for reasons sufficient to himself, the counselor - as well as the counselee - shall have the option of terminating counseling.
7. Information disclosed in counseling sessions will be held confidential only as the counselor believes the Bible requires. Absolute confidentiality is not Scriptural; matters of church discipline (cf. Mt. 18:15ff.), for instance, under certain circumstances, require one to disclose facts to others.
8. All counseling is done free of charge as a ministry of Central Baptist Church. Sometimes, out of gratitude, one may wish to express his thanks in a tangible way. In such cases, checks should be made out to the church, not in a pastor's name.
9. It should be understood that biblical counseling consists of the giving of scriptural advice and the practical application of the same to each individual. Yet the counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that advice.

We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness. There are no problems between persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. While our counselors do not pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, nevertheless, they do know much and will do their utmost to help you.

Counselors will honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek help.

I have read the conditions for counseling set forth in this brochure and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_